

Report on Hotel Use Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

FEMA direct payment program for hotel rooms
through Corporate Lodging Consultants, Inc. (CLC).

December 13, 2005

- ◆ *Please carefully review this introduction; it is crucial to understanding the nature of the information contained in the report.*

There is no mechanism to determine the number of hotel rooms in use on a given recent night.

The information in this report comes from several sources. Regional FEMA offices, Joint Field Offices (JFOs), and Alternate Field Offices (AFOs) continue their various outreach programs to contact evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that are staying in hotels as part of the FEMA Short-Term Lodging Program. One result of this outreach is a 'field verification' of the hotel rooms being used by Hurricane Katrina and Rita evacuees. As field verification of hotel rooms becomes available, it will be included in this report in lieu of estimates based on invoices received for hotel rooms.

When field verification of hotel rooms is not available, estimates of hotel room occupancy as part of the FEMA Short-Term Lodging Program are based on invoice information provided to FEMA by Corporate Lodging Consultants, Inc. (CLC). CLC receives thousands of invoices from Short-Term Lodging Program hotel participants daily according to the standard billing schedule for an individual hotel. An invoice from an individual hotel may include room charges over any number of days, past and/or future.

Therefore, although FEMA receives invoicing information from CLC on a regular basis, reports derived from these invoices may not equate to exact locations where evacuees are staying on a given day, and *interpretation of daily changes in estimates reflects trends in invoicing rather than trends in occupancy*. The 14-day average of room nights billed is NOT a literal count of hotel rooms in use under the program, but is an estimate and has been reported as such in all reports to date. The figures represented are an abstraction arrived at by a formula. Below is an explanation of the two major elements of the report:

14-Day Average of Room-Nights Billed

CLC and FEMA learn of room use only when CLC receives bills from participating hotels. CLC receives bills on a daily, weekly, or semi-monthly or longer term basis, depending on the individual hotel's standard billing procedure. These bills can be for room charges over any number of days, past and/or future.

Our approach is to average these numbers over a 14-day period. "14-Day Average of Room-Nights Billed" is calculated according to the following formula:

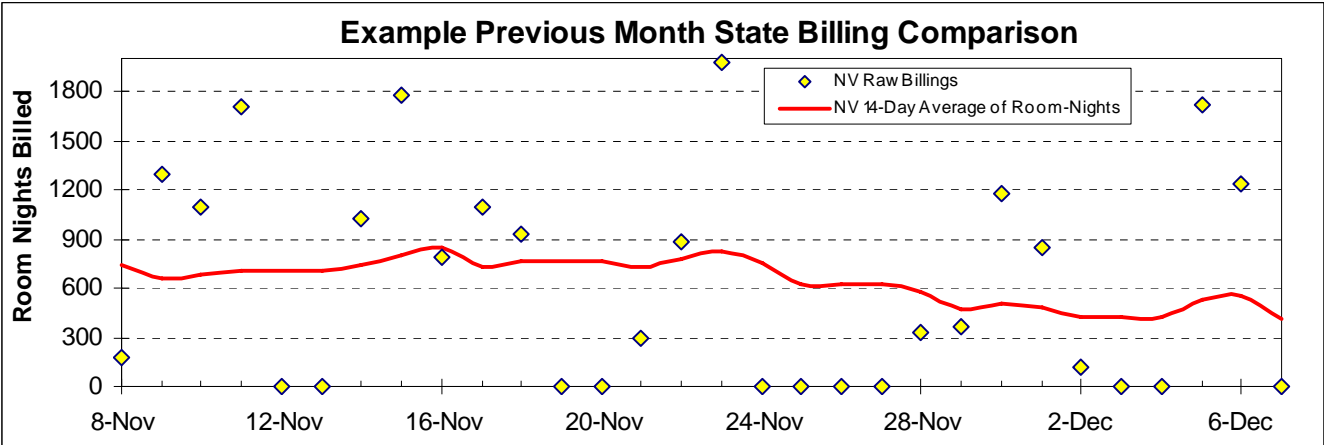
- ◆ Add all room-nights billed over the previous 14 days, then divide by 14.

The result gives us the best indication of recent hotel room billings, but *not at all an actual count*, of recent daily room use.

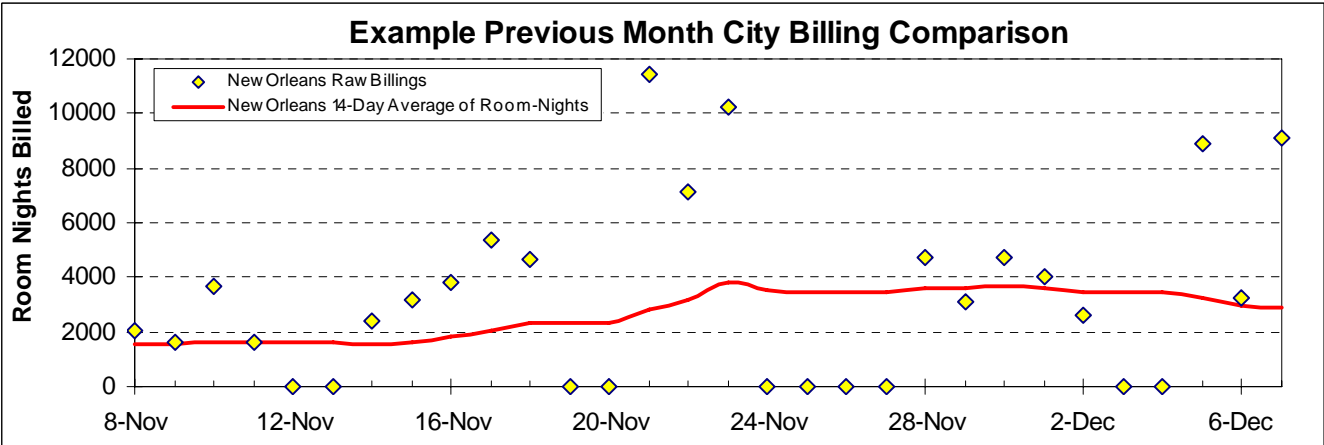
Number of Hotels Billing CLC (over previous 14 days)

- ◆ This is a count of individual hotels that have submitted bills to CLC during the 14-day reporting period.

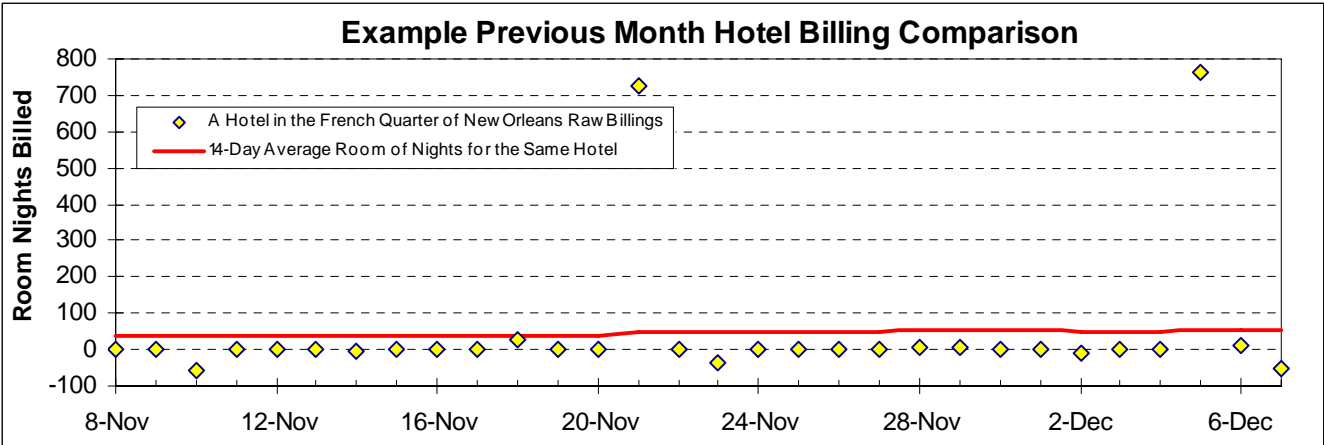
When reviewing the invoicing data, it should be noted that day to day invoicing is not regular, and daily changes in estimates may reflect trends in invoicing rather than trends in occupancy. Below is a graph representing actual invoices received for the state of Nevada in comparison to its 14-day average of Room-Nights Billed:



The above graph shows that although the 14-day average gives an estimate of occupancy, it is calculated from a wide range of individual invoices. An individual city presents a similar picture as shown below:



This data is taken from New Orleans over the last month, and shows daily the peak billing of room nights as 11,403 on 11/21. Data from individual hotels is highly variable as the below graph shows:



This hotel selected from the French Quarter in New Orleans is a representative example of how an individual hotel's daily invoicing appears. Large invoices come through on an infrequent basis, with occasional credit adjustments showing up as negative room nights. These graphs demonstrate the utility and limitations of the use of the 14-Day Average of Room-Nights as a tool for estimating hotel occupancy on any given night.

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State	Number of Hotels That Have Invoiced CLC Dec. 1 - Dec. 12, 2005
TX	1,065
LA	490
GA	441
FL	381
CA	246
MS	225
AL	202
TN	187
AR	140
VA	75
MO	64
NC	60
IL	50
MD	39
CO	32
OK	32
WA	32
NV	29
MI	24
SC	24
AZ	23
OH	23
NY	21
IN	19
MN	19
OR	19
PA	18
NJ	17
KY	16
NM	15
KS	14
IA	13
MA	13
CT	12
WI	8
DC	7
NE	7
DE	6
UT	5
ME	4
VT	4
HI	3
ID	3
MT	3
NH	3
WV	3
WY	3
AK	2
RI	1
SD	1
ND	0
Total	4,143

State	Estimated No. of Hotel Rooms Occupied	Data Source	Date Data Updated
TX	13,045 *	CLC	13-Dec
LA	10,888 *	CLC	13-Dec
GA	5,687 *	CLC	13-Dec
FL	2,488 *	CLC	13-Dec
AL	1,531 *	CLC	13-Dec
MS	1,411 †	MS JFO	10-Dec
CA	1,225 *	CLC	13-Dec
AR	842 *	CLC	13-Dec
TN	783 *	CLC	13-Dec
NV	557 *	CLC	13-Dec
NY	380 *	CLC	13-Dec
VA	164 †	Region III	9-Dec
MI	157 †	Region V	10-Dec
NC	133 *	CLC	13-Dec
MO	131 *	CLC	13-Dec
WA	98 †	Region X	13-Dec
SC	93 *	CLC	13-Dec
MD	65 †	Region III	9-Dec
IL	63 †	Region V	10-Dec
OK	61 *	CLC	13-Dec
AZ	54 *	CLC	13-Dec
KY	34 *	CLC	13-Dec
OH	32 †	Region V	10-Dec
CO	31 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
DE	30 †	Region III	9-Dec
MA	24 *	CLC	13-Dec
OR	23 †	Region X	13-Dec
NJ	22 *	CLC	13-Dec
CT	21 *	CLC	13-Dec
MN	21 †	Region V	10-Dec
IA	18 *	CLC	13-Dec
PA	18 †	Region III	9-Dec
NM	17 *	CLC	13-Dec
DC	13 †	Region III	9-Dec
NE	9 *	CLC	13-Dec
HI	8 *	CLC	13-Dec
KS	8 *	CLC	13-Dec
IN	7 †	Region V	10-Dec
ME	6 *	CLC	13-Dec
VT	6 *	CLC	13-Dec
RI	5 *	CLC	13-Dec
WI	5 †	Region V	10-Dec
NH	4 *	CLC	13-Dec
AK	3 †	Region X	13-Dec
UT	2 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
WY	2 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
ID	0 †	Region X	13-Dec
MT	0 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
ND	0 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
SD	0 †	Region VIII	5-Dec
WV	0 †	Region III	9-Dec
Total	40,225		

*Estimate of hotel rooms occupied is based on a 14-day average of room nights billed, as explained on page 1 of this report. Source data provided to FEMA by CLC, based on invoices recieved from individual hotels. A zero value may represent less than 7 room nights billed in the previous 14 days.

† Estimate of hotel rooms occupied is based on information provided by Regional Offices, JFOs, and AFOs via calls or visits to hotels that have billed CLC for rooms under the FEMA Short Term Lodging Program.